

## RECOGNIZING FAMILY CENTRAL

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Family Central, Inc.

Since its founding in 1971, Family Central has played a pivotal role in the lives of South Florida families by providing quality, safe, and affordable child care. By working at the local level, Family Central serves as an essential community partner in improving the lives of the constituents of Florida's 20th Congressional district and beyond. Throughout our region, Family Central has served approximately one million children since its founding.

I applaud Family Central's work to ensure that families in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties have access to excellent child care. As a working mother, I understand the struggles that working families go through to provide and care for their children. With the number of parents working full time on the rise, more and more families are fully engaged in the daily juggling act of making ends meet and caring for their children.

Family Central provides safe and affordable child care to over one hundred thousand South Florida children annually. The role they play is critical to ensuring families do not have to choose between being able to afford child care and being able to trust that their child is safe.

Family Central also provides training to childcare practitioners, giving them new skills to help them create a learning environment that supports a child's emotional, cognitive, and developmental needs. In the years since Family Central was created, research has reinforced that early learning is an integral part of successful child development and reducing achievement gaps in our educational systems.

This wonderful organization not only helps provide care for children when parents are working, but it also helps parents to become better and more effective caregivers for their children at home. They are one of only ten groups in the country identified as a Nurturing Parenting Affiliate. By helping parents to nurture their children, Family Central helps the families of South Florida become and remain strong, stable, and united.

The difficult economic conditions of the past few years have been especially tough for working families across the country, and particularly in South Florida. Now more than ever, the essential services provided by community partners like Family Central are critical to giving children in our community an environment in which to thrive.

Congratulations to Family Central on their 40th anniversary—and thank you to everyone who has made it possible. I commend their service to our great state, to South Florida and to the families and children of Florida's 20th Congressional District.

I look forward to more great achievements from Family Central as it continues its long tradition of providing quality, accessible and affordable services to South Florida's families.

## HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE SEBASTICOOK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2012 Annual Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards. For years, the Chamber has been at the forefront of business networking and development across 12 towns in the Newport, Pittsfield and Dexter areas.

Each year, the Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include George and Linda Lougee for the Joyce Packard Community Spirit Award and C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. for the Business of the Year for 2012. Since they first came to Newport in 1999, the Lougees have devoted themselves to helping the area flourish. Their efforts to arrange Sparkle, the Chamber's and the Region's largest fund raiser, have generated \$78,000 for local organizations over the last six years. Additionally, C.M. Almy and Sons Inc. has manufactured church vestments, furnishing, and accessories since 1892. This third-generation family owned business is being recognized for community support in the region.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to Sebecook Valley, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Sebecook Valley Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

## WELFARE INTEGRITY NOW FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, last week I voted against the so called "Welfare Integrity Now for Children and Families Act of 2011," H.R. 3567.

H.R. 3567 would require states to prevent the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program benefits in a liquor store, casino, or strip club.

This bill is being disguised as one that would ensure taxpayer dollars are being appropriately spent. In reality, this bill is being brought to the floor to demean individuals who rely on TANF benefits and to imply that they are immoral.

It is ludicrous to suggest that there is a national problem necessitating that Congress stop TANF recipients from spending their money at strip clubs.

TANF is a long-standing program, previously known as Aid for Families of Dependent Children, that is one of the most important parts of our national safety net and that keeps almost 2 million families from the brink of starvation.

What is missing from this bill is any discussion that in many underserved neighborhoods, the closest ATM is located in one of these establishments. Preventing the use of TANF cards at these establishments could result in TANF beneficiaries not being able to access their benefits. Instead of debating how Congress could pass laws that would help with economic redevelopment in underserved communities, we are spending our time vilifying individuals receiving benefits and then sanctimoniously taking credit for preventing any misuse. This is part of the message of those who seek to demean the President by calling him the food stamp President.

Further, this bill would cost money—not save it. In New Jersey, it is estimated that this bill would cost \$100,000 to implement and Governor Christie's office wrote to express their concerns about the bill.

For a bill that is supposed to be ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being well spent, this bill would hinder individuals from obtaining their legitimate benefits and cost states more money. Every Member of Congress should have opposed this bill which was more offensive than silly.

H.R. 1173 is another attempt by the Republicans to embarrass individuals who are on hard economic times instead of helping them find a job.

## HONORING ANDREW G. ROMAN

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a proud son of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Andrew G. Roman, known as Andy, died peacefully January 4, 2012 at the age of 87.

Born to Greek immigrants on June 27, 1924, he was raised in Pittsburgh. By all accounts, Andy was a true patriot. During World War II, he served as a combat soldier in Italy with the 88th Infantry Division—Blue Devils, receiving two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. After his honorable discharge, he returned to marry his childhood sweetheart Tresa and started his aerospace career working on the DC-6 and Harry Truman's Sacred Cow, with Douglas Aircraft.

Traveling extensively throughout the world during his time with McDonnell-Douglas, he worked on many programs critical to the security and technological pre-eminence of the United States, including the Thor, Delta, Nike Zeus (based on Kwajalein in the South Pacific), Apollo, and SkyLab programs. Andy completed his 35 year-career as the Director of Factory Operations for McDonnell Douglas in Titusville, Florida on the Dragon and Tomahawk missiles. Throughout his career, he was honored to work with many wonderful colleagues and friends who represented the McDonnell-Douglas family, an organization he truly revered.

Andy is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Tresa, and an extensive family that includes four grandchildren and seven great-